



December 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

December 3

Polar Express dress rehearsal trains @ 4 & 6pm (possible 8pm too)

December 11

Annual Christmas Ladies Luncheon and ornament exchange, at Carol Mabe's house. Info: 984-1210

Polar Express Train Dates:

December 5,6,7,12,13,14,19, 20 & 21

December 21

Polar Express 'After Glow Party' at National Hotel 9:30-11:30pm

December 26 thru 30

Un-decorating the Polar decorations begins
volunteer help needed
10am-2pm

January 24

Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Black Oak Casino Resort 5-8:30pm

This year's theme: Hollywood Glamour! Come in your finest vintage or modern dress for the ladies and tux or suit coats from the gentlemen.

January 31

New Volunteer Open House
10am-1pm

February 14

Roundhouse Day
10am-2:30pm
New Volunteer Orientation
9am-3pm?

February 21

Volunteer Training workshops
9am-3pm

February 28

Volunteer Training workshops
GCOR Training/ 8am-4pm

March 14

Volunteer Training workshops
9am-3pm

March 28

Car Host Training & practice trains 9am-2pm

April 4 & 5

Excursion season begins!



Dave Connery & Jerry Redfern
Roundhouse Hosting

Defining Interpretation

This is the third part of an ongoing series of articles about interpretation, in advance of next year's implementation of the MASTER INTERPRETIVE PLAN which is being drafted especially for Railtown. The following information is gleaned from the California State Parks Basic Interpretation Learning System. Here's food for thought:

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

(a quote by William Arthur Ward).

The most important element of an interpretive presentation is the theme. Some presentations are simply laundry lists of facts and information; these are known as "show-and-tell" or brag presentations. You walk through the park

and show them the artifacts and tell them some information about each one. This is not interpretation! Interpretation is distinguished by the conveyance of a discernible message driven by an expressed need or as David Larsen, former training manager of the National Park Service put it this way: ***"An interpretive theme statement is the artistic creation of the interpreter based upon the significance of the site. It is the expression of what the interpreter and organization knows to be meaningful about the resource in language audiences can connect to their own experience."*** An interpretive theme articulates a reason or reasons for caring about and caring for the resource. Using a theme, an interpreter hopes to provoke the audience to know the resource is meaningful and feel that its preservation matters.

As we enter the new year and look forward to our new volunteer open house, I'm hoping we can find many more volunteers to help with interpreting our historic park. Yes, we need more maintenance and engine crew volunteers. But our need for interpreters is critical. Costumed greeters, roundhouse hosts, walking tour guides and car hosts all play an important role in sharing with the public the real significance of our Railtown 1897 State Historic Park. We all have a lot to learn about how to share our history and inspire our visitors.

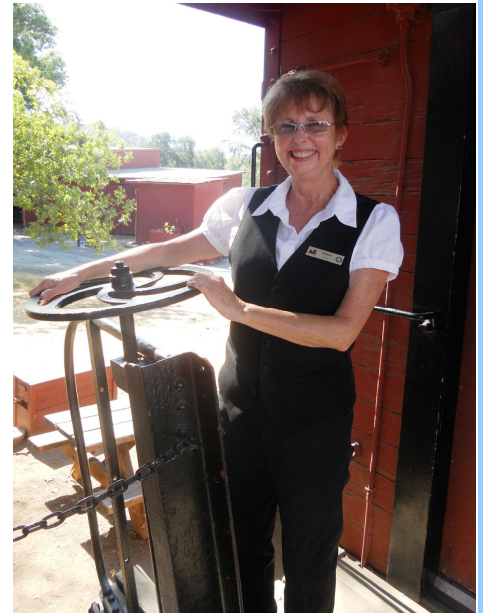
(the Volunteer Coordinator)



Ken Vogel interpreting the movie exhibit

Volunteer Profiles: Barbara Roehrick

"What do I really love about Railtown? I love it here because I've always been made to feel welcome and everyone is helpful. The atmosphere is so user friendly whenever I have a question or need advice. I also love the visitors and the sincere interest they have in our historic park. The nicest thing about Railtown is, it's a hands on experience for everyone." She had a lot to say after I asked what she liked most about Railtown! Since joining us in February she's been doing it all: Tour Guiding, Greeting, Roundhouse Hosting, Car Hosting and working Fire Patrol. She finds as much time as possible to volunteer at Railtown, even though she has a full time job as a paralegal for Stanislaus County. She was born and raised in Stockton where her mother was a school teacher and her father ran a driver's education business. After graduating from Modesto Junior College, she entered the legal field, first as a clerk and eventually promoted to paralegal. In past years she has been a volunteer for a little league association, an organization called Haven, helping victims of domestic violence, and worked with a home owners association. What about hobbies? She loves photography, but definitely is not musically inclined. "In fact I don't sing in public because I like people too much!" She is also studying the craft of pyrotechnics (fireworks) and hopes to one day be able to participate in 4th of July fireworks celebrations and other events as a licensed technician. "My friend Ken Rattenne introduced me to Railtown and I was inspired to know that Stephanie Tadlock had become one of the first female engineers. It's a sure thing I'll be there during the GCOR training hoping to be on the engine crew in 2015. I want to thank and say how much I appreciate everyone I've met this year. I've learned a lot in the 2014 season and am looking forward to learning more in the upcoming years from the volunteers and staff about the history and magic that is Railtown."



Railtown Interpretive Improvement Team (Kim Baker)

In the thick of Polar Express preparations, it is hard enough to find time to write this article, let alone plan for January and beyond. But, we must look forward! We are forming a steering committee to help develop and implement improved interpretive programming. This team will be comprised of volunteers and staff, and will provide leadership as we move forward to implement the interpretive master plan. Are you interested in learning more about this field of study? Would you like to visit other parks with similar interpretive messaging or challenges? Are you interested in increased training opportunities? Are you interested in modeling improved interpretive methods for others?

Our first meeting will be on January 10th, from 9am-1130, in the crew caboose. At this meeting we will discuss some goals for 2015, schedule future meetings and field trips, provide take home teaching materials and do some brainstorming. Participants will be expected to do homework! (Studying and developing ideas to contribute at future meetings).

On a related note (but not required)- On January 13th, 20th, and 27th, from 10-12, staff will be meeting to work on thematic development for the Interpretive Master Plan. If you are interested and would like to attend any of those days, you are welcome to attend. Please RSVP so we can let you know if we change the meeting location. For more information, Google: Adventures in Learning California State Parks, Heritage Interpretation, Thematic Interpretation, Interpretive Development Program National Parks (this site has great information, including training videos).

Railtown News

Annual Christmas Ornament Exchange

The Railtown ladies annual Christmas luncheon and ornament exchange will take place on Thursday, December 11th at 11:30am at Carol Mabe's house. Call 984-1210 for information

Polar Express Cast Party at the National Hotel in Jamestown

An after glow party for our entire cast of volunteers and staff will take place after the last train on Sunday, December 21st, from 9:30 to 11:30pm at the National Hotel. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided, plus drinks will be available for sale in the bar.

No Lunches For Thursdays in December

As it was last year, there will be no lunches prepared by the Railtown ladies in December. Thursday lunches will return January 8.

2015 Training Dates/ Mark Your Calendars

January 31: New Volunteer Open House/ 10am-1pm

February 14: New Volunteer Orientation/ 10am-3pm

(It's also Roundhouse Day 10am-2:30pm)

February 21: Volunteer Training/ 9am-3pm

February 28: Volunteer Training/ 9am-3pm

GCOR Training/8am-4pm

March 7: No training

March 14: Volunteer Training/ 9am-3pm

March 21: No training

March 28: Car Host Training & Practice Trains

Interpretive Improvement Team

If you'd like to help improve interpretive programming for Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, then you are cordially invited to attend our first meeting Saturday, January 10, in the Crew Caboose from 9:30-11:30am

Interpretive Master Plan Meetings

Railtown staff will be meeting from 10am-12 on January 13, 20, and 27 to work on thematic development for the Interpretive Plan. All are also welcome to attend, but please RSVP if you plan on attending, in the event we change the meeting location.



Beside being a great Interpretive Specialist, Karen Kling shows her incredible artistic talent, painting numerous scenes for Polar Express



Park Superintendent Kim Baker and volunteers turned out very early on November 18 to be interviewed by CBS 13's television personality Mark Allen for the Polar event. Is that Bob Ide in pajamas? Other volunteers present were David Ethier, Suzy Johnson (our hobo), the dancing waiters (Janae Perkins & Gracen Harvey), Don Slifert, David Kelly, Dottie Bolander and Warren Zimmerman.



Matt Sagaser "thumbs up!" has been working hard, along with Jerry Tannhauser, wiring the sound system on the interior of the cars for the Polar Express



PO Box 1250
Jamestown, CA 95327
Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
Volunteer Desk- (209) 984-4408
Volunteer Website- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>
Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com
Newsletter Editor— Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209)

Kim Baker , Park Superintendent	984-4622	Kim.Baker@parks.ca.gov
George Sapp , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov
Lisa DeLacy , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov
Karen Kling , Park Interpretive Specialist	984-8703	Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov
Ryan Richelson , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	Ryan.Richelson@parks.ca.gov
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-8702	Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-8702	Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Senior Park Aide & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Carl Rudolph , Fire Patrol Coordinator	586-9905	cakr@sonnet.com
Karen Ethier , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-7525	kmethier@gmail.com
Ron White , Stationmaster Coordinator	551-7087	rbarryw@att.net